

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM 7

7. (Amended) An apparatus for continuously producing baked long doctor materials comprising:

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A 2
a plurality of pinch rollers for continuously forwardly straightening out long doctor materials plated from a take-up reel by a method comprising a degreasing step, rinsing step, acid immersion, rinsing step, electroless ceramic composite nickel plating step, plating solution collection step, rinsing step, and drying step between a first step of supplying continuously a long doctor blade base material held on a material reel spirally while the blade surface is maintained in a horizontal direction with respect to the surface of the solution for uniformly plating the long doctor blade material wherein a higher concentration of a ceramic fine powder is deposited on a top surface of the long doctor blade material than a concentration of the ceramic fine powder deposited on the lower surface of the long doctor blade material, and a final step of taking up continuously the blade base material on the corresponding take-up reel while the blade base material is cramped by a plurality of pinch rolls; and

a straightening furnace for baking through which the straightened plated blades pass.

NEW CLAIM 8

8. An apparatus for continuously producing baked long doctor materials comprising:

A3
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a plurality of pinch rollers for continuously forwardly straightening out long doctor materials plated from a take-up reel by a method comprising a degreasing step, rinsing step, acid³ immersion, rinsing step; electroless ceramic composite nickel⁶ plating step, plating solution collection step, rinsing step, and⁷ drying step between a first step of supplying continuously a⁸ plurality of long doctor blade base materials held on a plurality⁹ of material reels spirally while the blade surfaces are¹⁰ maintained in a horizontal direction with respect to the surface¹¹ of the solution and a predetermined interval therebetween is¹² maintained for uniformly plating the plurality of long doctor¹³ blade materials wherein a higher concentration of a ceramic fine¹⁴ powder is deposited on a top surface of each of the plurality of¹⁵ long doctor blade materials than a concentration of the ceramic¹⁶ fine powder deposited on the lower surface of each of the¹⁷ plurality of long doctor blade materials, and a final step of¹⁸ taking up continuously the plurality of doctor blade base¹⁹ materials on a plurality of corresponding take-up reels while the²⁰ plurality of blade base materials are cramped by a plurality of²¹ pinch rolls; and

a straightening furnace for baking through which the straightened plated blades pass.